



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

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Dear Elliot:


I am concerned about our Government's attitude and response toward the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment.

Signals have come to me from several sources that the United States is not particularly enthusiastic about the Conference, particularly as reflected in our attitude toward the Conference budget.

I know that a conference of the projected size and complexity of the 1972 meeting involves many considerations, not the least of which is financing. However, I think it would be most unfortunate if our concern over the budget should result in the United States being ~~caste~~ in an essentially negative role in a field where we ~~should be~~ exercising positive international leadership. Quality of the environment is attracting world-wide interest and attention. The opportunity is ripe for U.S. initiatives.

At the very least, the United States should develop a positive attitude toward the 1972 Conference and do everything possible to contribute to its eventual success.

Sincerely yours


Acting Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Elliot L. Richardson
Under Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520



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